



Montana Board of Crime Control

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TO: All Participating Middle School Principals
FROM: Shawn Clark, DtWT State Chairman
SUBJECT: 2018 "Do the Write Thing Challenge"
DATE: January 2, 2018

You are cordially invited to participate in Montana's **Do the Write Thing Challenge**, a violence prevention program that targets 7th and 8th grade students and asks them to take a stand against violence in their schools and communities. 2018 marks the 11th anniversary of Montana's participation in the National program. Sixth grade students may also participate if they are in the same building as the 7th and 8th grade students.

By participating you will be joined by hundreds of other school principals from across the United States in a coordinated, unique effort to give students the opportunity to communicate their thoughts on the impact of youth violence on their lives and to make personal commitments to reduce violence. **All costs for this program are generously paid for by our sponsors.**

More than 1,000 Montana middle school students have submitted thought-provoking, insightful essays and poems. Each year Montana's **Do the Write Thing** committee selects one boy and one girl to represent Montana as our ambassadors to Washington, D.C. accompanied by a parent and the sponsoring teacher to attend a four-day gathering of other ambassadors. Parents, teachers, and students attend workshops and visit Capitol Hill. A leather-bound book containing the ambassadors' writings is presented to the Library of Congress; our students have been invited to read their essays aloud at the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court.

The attached information, entitled Instructions for Classroom Teachers explains this year's **"Do the Write Thing Challenge"** in more detail. The **attachments include: a letter to participating teachers, information about rules, deadlines, selection criteria, and student recognition; and a classroom discussion guide regarding violence prevention linked to Common Core application.**

Information can also be downloaded from our website, www.mbcc.mt.gov. A video highlighting the National Recognition Week can be viewed at www.dtwt.org. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 406-444-2056 or email me at sdclark@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Shawn Clark

Shawn Clark
sdclark@mt.gov
406-444-2056